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Okinawa issue and related issue US bases Japan continue receive top attention Japanese press. All major papers have commented in lead editorials, also featured reports Jap correspondents Washington and comments by local columnists. Prevailing themes are indignation and "surprise" at US actions, concern over effect actions and statements may have on US-Japan relations and negotiations with Soviets, hope "good sense" will lead US to reconsider.

MAINICHI in relatively mild editorial commenting on statement re "semi-permanent" base rights Japan says that "Since Japs have been expecting bases to be withdrawn as Japan's own power of self-defense grows, statement has come as something of a shock." On Okinawan issue MAINICHI agrees Price Report has some good points, but regrets that "wishes of Okinawans in general have been ignored in favor of long range use of Okinawa by US forces." Paper recognizes that US forces have legal basis for use Okinawa but hopes "future return of Okinawa to Japan will be taken into consideration in dealing with island's problems in sympathetic manner".

ASAHI 17th in editorial headed "Listen to voice of Okinawans" says statement on bases Japan struck sensitive spot and has aroused feelings Japanese people. While recognizing statement perhaps motivated by domestic US political considerations, paper asks that US be "more restrained." On Okinawa issue ASAHI recalls Secretary's 1951 statement Japan's residual sovereignty, asks that in order prevent further worsening Okinawa situation and "for sake of US-Japan friendship" US authorities reconsider position. ASAHI recognizes Okinawan land problem "complicated" but in view greatly increased land areas to be acquired and great difference between positions US and Ryukyus on land compensation considers re-examination called for. "Until islands returned to Japan", ASAHI asks that US heed islanders demands and look after their welfare. Regrets that Japanese Government "treats Okinawans like step-children," demands that government adopt strong policy in negotiating with US to protect their welfare.

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welfare. (Less moderate ASAHI cartoon shows naked Okinawa under US boots crying "return southern Kuriles").

YOMIURI 18th says that "to those of us who hope for improvement US-Japan relations" US statements on Okinawa and bases Japan particularly regrettable. YOMIURI also supposes statements deemed necessary in seeking Congressional appropriations. Still, paper considers US should know sensibilities Japanese people on base issue and effect on delicate negotiations with Soviet well enough not to proclaim such policies.

ALLISON

TT:RBW/14

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